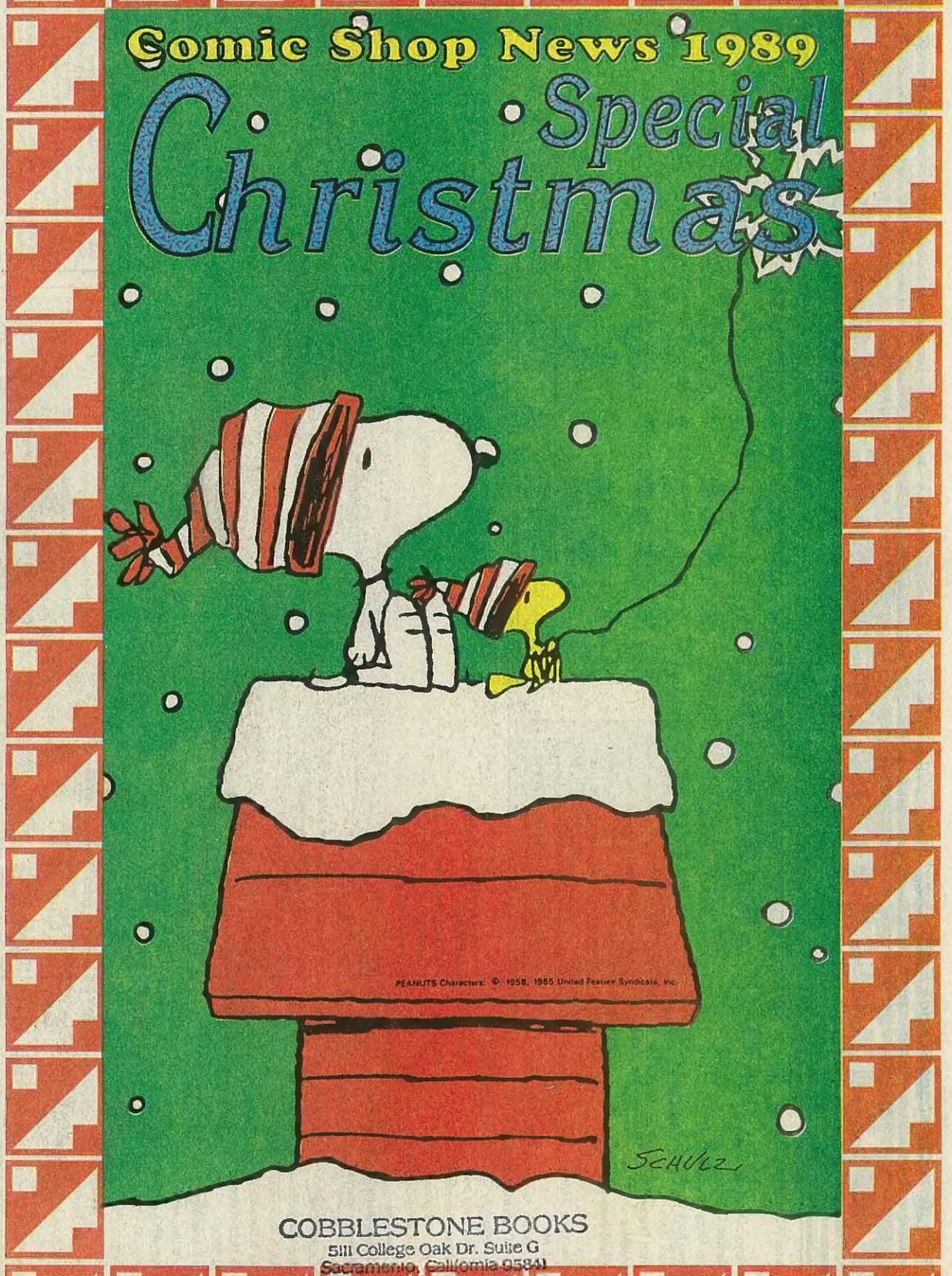

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Comic Shop News 1989 Special Christmas

Happy Holidays and welcome to the *CSN Holiday Special 1989!*

The publishers of ***CSN*** are aware that selecting gifts for a comics fan can be very difficult. There's a huge assortment of comics material available, and it can be even more troublesome trying to find something just right for a the fan on your gift list.

That's where the ***CSN Holiday Special*** comes in. In this publication, you will find a wide assortment of gift ideas perfect for holiday giving. At the end of the ***CSN Hollday Special*** are "wish lists." All the comics fan has to do is read through the catalog, mark his or her gift wishes, and pass the list along. What could be easier?

Best of all, this ***CSN Hollday Special*** makes it easy for gift-givers to do what they wanted to do all along: give a thoughtful gift that will truly please the recipient. This catalog is filled with hundreds of gift ideas ranging in price from a dollar to hundreds of dollars, and covering pretty much every price in between.

Of course, the ***CSN Holiday Special*** is nowhere nearly complete in its listings. The best way to get an idea about everything that's available is to talk to the folks at your local comics shop; they're knowledgeable people who will be able to help you find just the right gift idea. They can also let you know about the availability of items that might have gone out of print (or might not have been released yet).

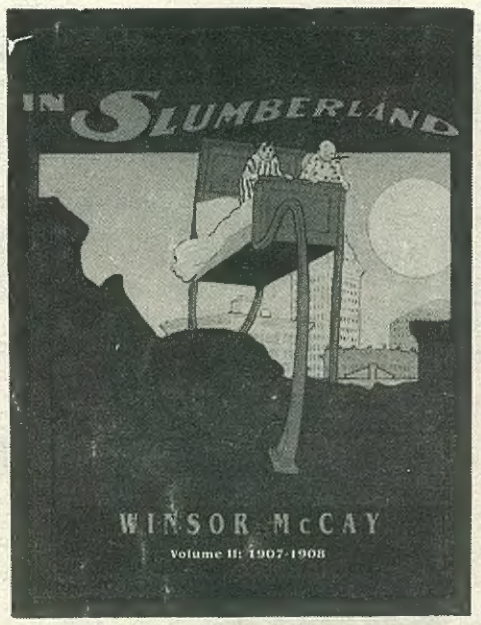
Happy shopping--and again, happy holidays!

Cliff Biggers & Ward Batty

DELUXE ITEMS

Some people say a comics collector can be hard to shop for during the holidays; it's hard to keep up with just *what* he or she collects, and you have no ideas what he or she hasn't already bought. After all, comics collectors aren't always known for their patience and restraint...

For many collectors, the way to guarantee a great holiday surprise--and the kind of gift that the collector would rarely buy for himself or herself--is to shop for *deluxe comics items.* These are often the sort of item that the collector simply can't afford for himself--which means that they'll be very much appreciated as gifts.



Thanks to the efforts of a large number of publishers who want to make sure that some comics items get the quality treatment that they deserve, there are numerous slightly more expensive items that would appeal to the tastes of any collector. These items are very often a bit too expensive for collectors who spend most of their comics budget keeping up with their weekly titles; however, they're in the perfect price range for gifts.

Thanks to the mega-success of Batman this year, there's a cornucopia if Batman-related special products available. The most recent releases that make handsome additions to any fan's bookshelf are ***The Complete Frank Miller Batman*** (Longmeadow Press, $29.95) and ***Batman: Arkham Asylum*** (DC, $24.95). ***The Complete Frank Miller Batman*** reprints the entire ***Dark Knight Returns*** storyline, along with ***Batman: Year One*** and a bonus short Batman story by Miller that has seen reprinting in America only once before. The book itself is a most impressive volume; it's a handsome leatherbound edition with foil stamping on the ***Asylum*** is perhaps the most eagerly awaited Batman graphic novel of all time; this 120-page volume by Grant Morrison and Dave McKean takes Batman into the asylum for the criminally insane that houses most of his most dangerous villains.

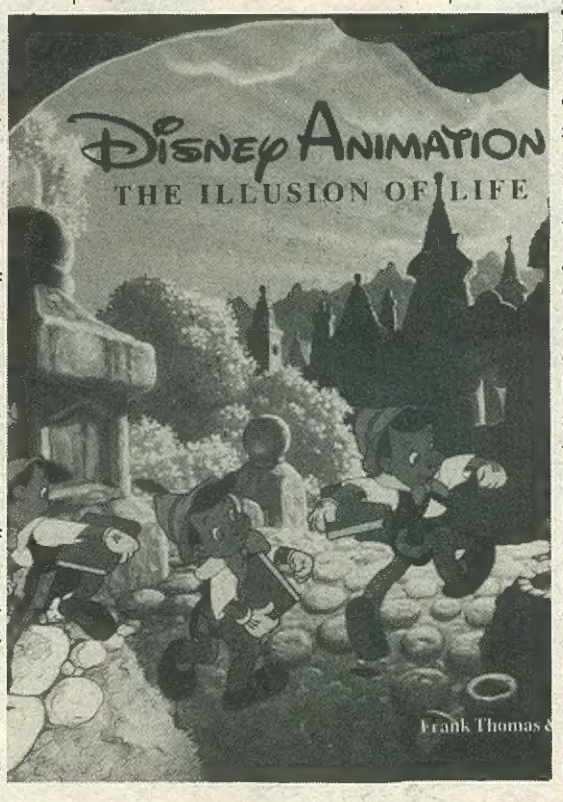
Batman also appears in two new DC hardcovers set for pre-Christmas release. ***The Greatest Super-Hero Team-Up Stories Ever Told*** (DC, $24.95) and ***The Greatest Golden Age Stories Ever Told*** (DC, $24.95) both feature a heaping helping of comics history, including classic Batman stories. DC has another Batman item that is a great gift idea: the ***Batman Pewter Figurine*** (DC, $29.95) is a 4.5" solid pewter casting featuring DC's most popular hero. This is the first in what DC expects to be a series of three-dimensional comics offerings--and because of Batman's popularity right now, it's sure to make it onto many Christmas gift lists.

Eclipse Comics also has a Batman gift item that should spread some cheer during the holidays. ***Batman and Me*** is Bob Kane's autobiographical account of the creation of the darknight detective, and includes some never-before-reprinted Golden Age stories. This book is available in trade paperback, hardcover, signed hardcover, and signed hardcover with a piece of original Batman art by the hero's creator. Check with your local comic shop about the availability of the latter two editions.

Comic shops also have a wide range of Batman-related items, including t-shirts, watches, clocks, models, miniatures, games, books, and more; there is no place you'll find a better selection of bat-gifts than at your local comic shop, and the friendly people there can help you make sure you find just what you're looking for to bring joy to a comics fan's heart.

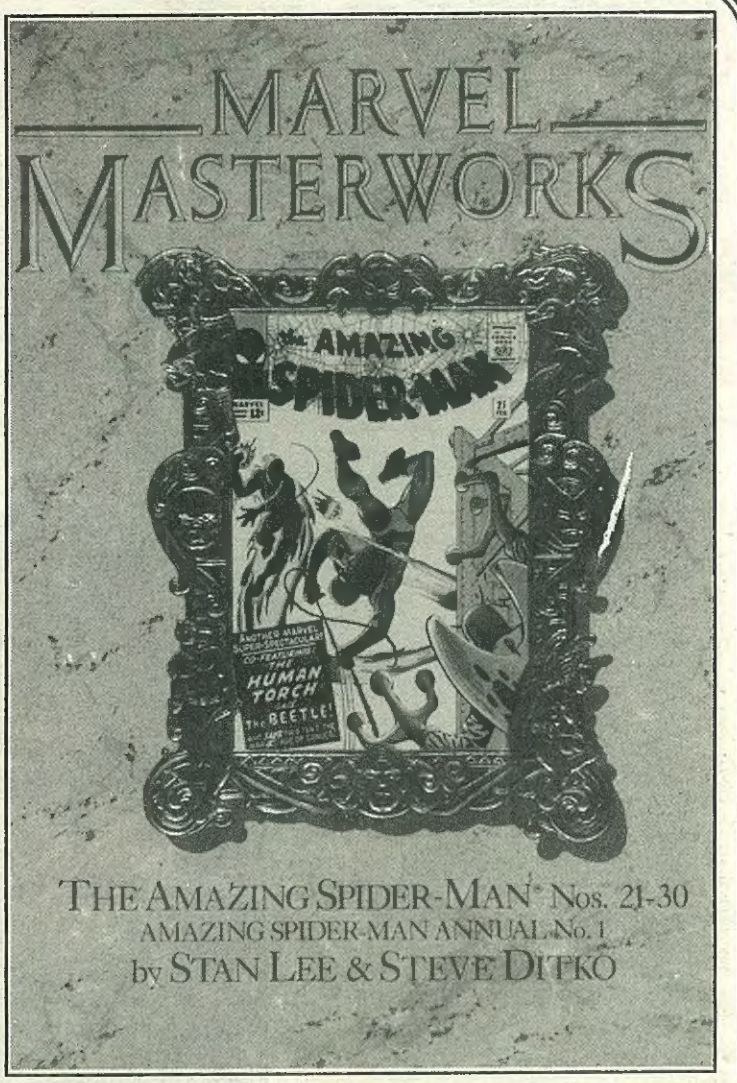
1989 may be Batman's year, but that doesn't mean that Superman has been totally forgotten. Quite the contrary: DC is releasing one of the most desirable of all collections just in time for the holiday season. ***Superman Archives 1*** is a $39.95 hardcover that will reprint the first four issues of Superman, complete with all ads, covers, and stories, in a single handsome hardcover edition. These four books would cost over $50,000 in mint condition--and just how often have you been able to give a $50,000 gift for less than forty bucks?

Another memorable character is Walt Disney's ever-popular Mickey Mouse. Mickey may be over sixty years old, but his adventures remain timeless. ***Mickey Mouse in Color,*** a deluxe hardcover reprinting some of the earliest Mickey Mouse strips by Floyd Gottfredson plus bonus Mickey material by Carl Barks, is a great gift for the funny-animal fan. For only $39.95, it offers a handsome and quality book that's perfect for winter afternoon browsing.



Abbeville Press' ***Disney Animation: The Illusion of Life*** was a great book at $50--but the price has recently been lowered to only $29.95, making it a gift bargain. This heavy, durable-stock hardcover is a massive book sure to give many hours of reading pleasure.

If you're shopping for a duck fan, you have several choices awaiting you. The Carl Barks fan would be thrilled with a holiday gift of any one of the complete ***Carl Barks Library*** editions available from Another Rainbow. Each boxed set contains three volumes of classic (and very expensive in their original edition) comic book reprints, along with articles, interviews, and behind-the-scenes information, all in oversized hardcovers with slipcase for only $110 per boxed set. The entire collection will include ten boxed sets, eight of which are available now.


MARVEL MASTERWORKS
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN Nos. 21-30
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL No. 1
by STAN LEE & STEVE DITKO

If your budget doesn't allow for $100 collections but you still want to find a gift that fits the bill, then perhaps you might want to look at ***Uncle Scrooge in Color*** from Another Rainbow; this $29.95 hardcover offers color reprints of a variety of Uncle Scrooge tales, including his first appearance, "Christmas on Bear Mountain." Another great gift for the Scrooge collector is the oversized color trade paperback of eleven great Scrooge stories, ***Uncle Scrooge: His Life and Times.*** This is one of the most beautifully colored books available, and is a ducky holiday surprise.

Another Rainbow also has three ***Little Lulu Library*** sets available; as with the Barks hardcovers, each set offers three volumes in a slipcase; the price on the ***Little Lulu Library*** sets is $100 per three-volume set. For fans of classic comics, these are great gifts.

Russ Cochran kicked off the idea of hardcover comics reprintings with his EC Library sets; the entire EC run is avail-

COMIC SHOP NEWS
1353 Gray Rock Drive
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ParaGraphics
Printing
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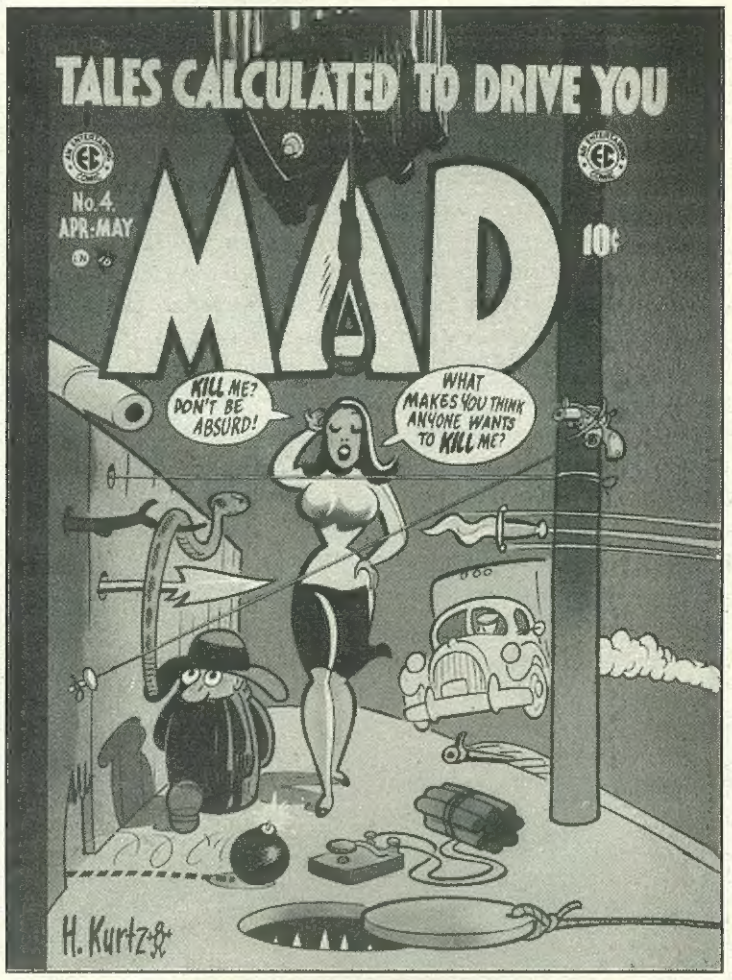
DELUXE ITEMS



able in quality slipcased editions ranging in price from $30 for single volumes of ***Mad*** to $100 for large multi-volume sets. These books feature classic stories by comics greats, including some of the tales that have inspired HBO's hit ***Tales From the Crypt*** horror series. Marvel Comics also has some deluxe hardcovers that look impressive on the bookshelf as well as under the tree. ***Marvel Masterworks,*** the deluxe Marvel Comics reprint series, has eleven volumes available this year, including volumes reprinting the first thirty issues of ***Amazing Spider-Man***, the first twenty issues of ***X-Men*** and the early issues of New ***X-Men,*** the first six ***Hulk***s, the first twenty ***Fantastic Four***s, and the first twenty ***Avenger***s. Priced at $29.95 (except for the ***Hulk*** volume, which has fewer pages and costs only $24.95), these books give collectors a valuable library of some of the most valuable Silver Age comics in existence.

Marvel has also reprinted a patriotic-hero series featuring stunning Jack Kirby artwork. Kirby is best known as the co-creator of Captain America, but his ***Fighting American*** series (done with Joe Simon) is equally entertaining for Marvel fans. This series is almost impossible to find today; the $35.95 hardcover should be very easy to find at your local comic shop in December,

Marvel also has several new tales available in hardcover. The Punisher stars in two hardcovers. ***The Punisher: Return to Big Nothing*** ($16.95) features a new Punisher adventure by the creators of the original Punisher limited series. ***The Punisher: Intruder*** ($14.95) features a book-length adventure by the current creators of the action-adventure series. Both books contain stories not available in any other format. ***Silver Surfer*** by Stan Lee and John Buscema ($14.95) is a special story by the creators of the writer and artist who created the original ***Silver Surfer*** series in the 1960's. ***The Shadow: Hitler's Astrologer*** ($14.95) reunites Denny O'Neil and Mike Kaluta for a new Shadow adventure set in World War II.

Speaking of The Shadow, DC has a hardcover reprinting the original O'Neil/Kaluta Shadow series. ***The Private Files of the Shadow***, a $19.95 volume, also includes a *new* Kaluta Shadow short feature.Marvel has also reprinted two very popular series in hardcover. J.M. DeMatteis and Mike Zeck's Kraven Saga, featuring Spider-Man, is available as a $19.95 hardcover entitled ***Spider-Man: Fearful Symmetry***, complete with painted color. Famed French artist Moebius' ***Silver Surfer*** series is also available in hardcover edition at the same price.

Moebius' work is also featured in three hardcovers from Graphitti Press. These hardcovers reprint the entire graphic novel series from Marvel Comics in three signed and numbered volumes for less than $50 per book. This is a way to give not only an entertaining gift but a true collectible that is sure to increase in value, since they're individually signed by the creator.

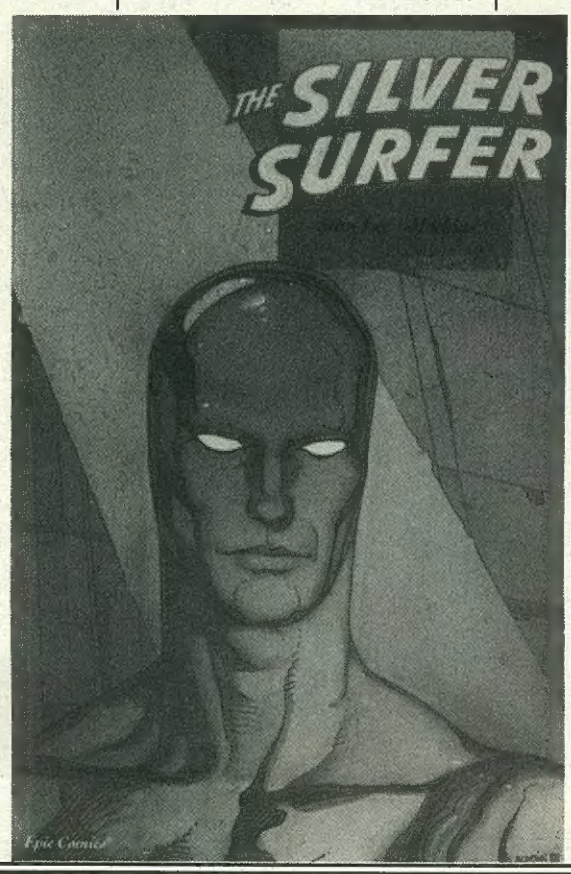
Like DC, Marvel has ventured into the three-dimensional market for the first time this year. Their ***Wolverine Bisque*** ($39.95) is a limited edition hand-painted sculpture of the most popular of all Marvel heroes. There are fewer than 13,000 of these figurines available, so some quick shopping might be in order.

Wolverine is also a star in the ***X-Men Animated Videotape,*** a $25.95 VHS tape that features the pilot for a proposed ***X-Men*** animated series. This episode was run only one time in 1988 and has never been seen since then, so it's sure to make some comics fans very, very happy.

And Wolverine *also* appears--along with hundreds of other heroes--in the ***Marvel Universe Poster,*** an enormous 4'x4' poster that features almost every Marvel hero as illustrated by Ed Hannigan and Joe Rubinstein.

Donning Press has published its Starblaze Classics line in hardcover. This series reprints classic books with artwork by top comics creators. Available so far are ***Thief of Baghdad*** (illustrated by P. Craig Russell), ***Metropolis*** (illustrated by Mike Kaluta), ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** (illustrated by Charles Vess), and ***Robin Hood*** (illustrated by Mike Grell). Priced at less than $20 each, these books are a great way to interest comics fans in wonderful non-comics literature in a package tailor-made to appeal to them.

One hardcover that will give a comics fan lovely hardcover dreams for many nights to come is ***The Photo-Journal Guide to Comic Books*** from Ernst Gerber. The book carries a $145 price tag, but for the money you get color photos of over 17,000 comic book covers, making this the most comprehensive comics photo reference work ever published.



Fantagraphics is publishing one of the most important comic strips in comics history in high-quality oversized hardcover editions. ***The Complete Little Nemo in Color*** is an ambitious collection of the entire run of Winsor McCay's classic series, painstakingly reproduced from the original color pages. At only $29.95 per volume, this may be the best bargain in comic strip collections--and no self-respecting fan could be unhappy to find *this* waiting for him under the tree.

Kitchen Sink has issued hardcover editions of its quality ***Li'l Abner*** reprint series; each volume reprints approximately a year's worth of strips for only $27.95. Kitchen Sink has also published a ***Flash Gordon*** hardcover ($25) that features a classic year of Gordon strips illustrated by Frazetta, Davis, Elder, and Barry. Both series are also available in less expensive trade paperbacks for approximately $15 per volume.

NBM is offering a superb run of the ***Wash Tubb's and Captain Easy*** strip in hardcover for $37.50 per volume; this series is the pioneer strip of the aviation-adventure genre.

NBM also has a signed limited edition of Harlan Ellison's and Richard Corben's ***Vic and Blood*** hardcover; what better gift can you give than a true collector's item *individually signed* by one of the more popular sf writers and an equally popular comics artist? This grim and violent story is intended for older readers, incidentally.

First Team Press has issued a series of high-quality lithographs featuring work by major names in the comics field. Their latest releases include Bob Kane prints featuring ***Batman,*** including a hand-signed print priced at $295 that is sure to be a valuable collector's item. Other prints include Spider-Man signed by Charles Vess and Stan Lee; Shadow signed by Mike Caluta, and Dr. Strange signed by Frank Cirrocco.

These are only a few of the high-quality deluxe items available in your local comic shop this holiday season. In addition to the books mentioned here, comic shops often have a selection of fine deluxe items that are no longer in print from publishers. Always take a few minutes to talk to the helpful people at your comics shop before you decide what gift to give; their expertise can be very helpful in selecting just the right item in a price range you'll be happy with. They can also point out items that would be perfect accompaniments for any deluxe gift item you might be interested in. If you're shopping for a comics fan, the friendly folks at your comics shop could be the best "Santa's helpers" you can find.

TRADE PAPERBACKS

A few years ago, if a comics fan missed a particularly popular story in his favorite comic, he was out of luck unless he could find it in high-priced backstock. Nowadays, though, comics companies regularly offer some of their very best comics material in trade paperback. A trade paperback is a proven winner as a gift item; it's generally a quality reprinting of some of the best comics material that publishers have to offer, and some of these books even contain new bonus material.

In the past few years, the number of trade paperbacks has grown enormously, making scores of gift-choices available that are sure to suit any comics fan's tastes. And best of all, virtually every one of these books is priced at $20 or less, allowing you to give lots of reading enjoyment without having to trim your gift list!

DC has several trade paperbacks that will appeal to the scores of Batman fans out there. ***The Greatest Batman Stories Ever Told*** ($15.95) and ***The Greatest Joker Stories Ever Told*** ($14.95) reprint over 500 pages of classic Batman stories between the two volumes; both new Batman fans and old-time collectors are bound to find something they haven't previously read in these pages.

The Dark Knight Returns is a trade paperback reprinting all four issues of Frank Miller's perennially popular story of an older Batman returning to battle crime once again. This was the most in-demand-comic published a few years ago; now its available any time you want it for only $12.95.

Since Batman has been DC's biggest hit this year, they have more Batman volumes available for inexpensive gift-giving. ***Batman: Year One*** ($9.95) features a provocative look at Batman's first case, as presented by writer Frank Miller and artist Dave Mazzuchelli. ***Batman: A Death in the Family*** is a bargain paperback collecting all four issues of the Death of Robin storyline into a single $3.95 edition.

Frank Miller may be best known to many fans for his Batman work, but before Dark Knight, he did ***Ronin.*** This innovative series has also been collected into a $12.95 trade paperback; think what a great gift this could be for someone who isn't familiar with Miller's non-Batman work!

Watchmen is considered one of the most thought-provoking and mature superhero comics ever published. ***The Watchmen Trade Paperback*** ($16.95) reprints the entire twelve-issue series by Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons. If you want a gift that will make a comics fan think for a while once he's finished reading the book, then The Watchmen is the perfect gift!

Several other DC heroes are featured in trade paperback collections. ***Superman*** ($12.95) gathers together John Byrne's retelling of Superman's origin from the six-issue ***Man of Steel*** series. There's also a classic Superman collection, ***The Greatest Superman Stories Ever Told*** ($16.95), that covers the Man of Steel's 50+ year career.

Green Arrow: Last of the Longbow Hunters ($14.95) collects the three Mike Grell issues into a single volume that redefines the Emerald Archer for the 80's and the 90's. ***The Legion of Super-Heroes: The Great Darkness Saga*** ($17.95) collects a multi-issue epic storyline into a single volume, and includes a bonus fold-out poster that reprints DC's Legion poster from several years ago. ***New Teen Titans: The Judas Contract*** ($14.95) reprints almost 200 pages of New Titans adventures by Marv Wolfman and George Perez.

Hawkman ($19.95) presents the six classic early Silver Age Hawkman stories from ***Brave & Bold;*** these Gardner Fox-Joe Kubert stories were the inspiration for this year's hit Hawkman series ***Hawkworld,*** which makes this book a great trade paperback for any younger fan who doesn't remember these early issues.

Justice League America and ***Justice League Europe*** are current fan favorites for DC; fans who didn't have a chance to enjoy the first issues of the Justice League series that inspired these two titles can relive the excitement on Christmas day with the ***Justice League: A New Beginning*** trade paperback ($12.95) reprinting ***Justice League #1-7*** with art by fan favorite Kevin Maguire.

Camelot 3000 ($12.95) is a surefire holiday hit for readers who enjoy Arthurian legends and epic adventures. This science-fiction saga brings Arthur and his knights into the alien-controlled world of the year 3000.

One of the more popular artists in the comics field today is Walt Simonson; fans who love his current work are often unaware of his early appearances, though. That's why ***The Art of Walt Simonson*** ($19.95) is such a great gift idea; it reveals a new facet of an old favorite.

The Shadow was given an updating by Howard Chaykin a few years ago; that four-issue storyline is made available in a handy bookshelf edition, ***The Shadow: Blood and Judgment*** ($12.95). This is a great gift for older fans who recall the original pulp hero with fondness.

Speaking of Howard Chaykin, his work can also be enjoyed in a trio of ***American Flagg!*** graphic novels from First Comics. ***Hard Times, Southern Comfort,*** and ***State of the Union*** ($11.95 each) reprint three different ***American Flagg!*** stories written and illustrated by Chaykin. These books are great gifts for older readers who are looking for something beyond typical superhero adventure.

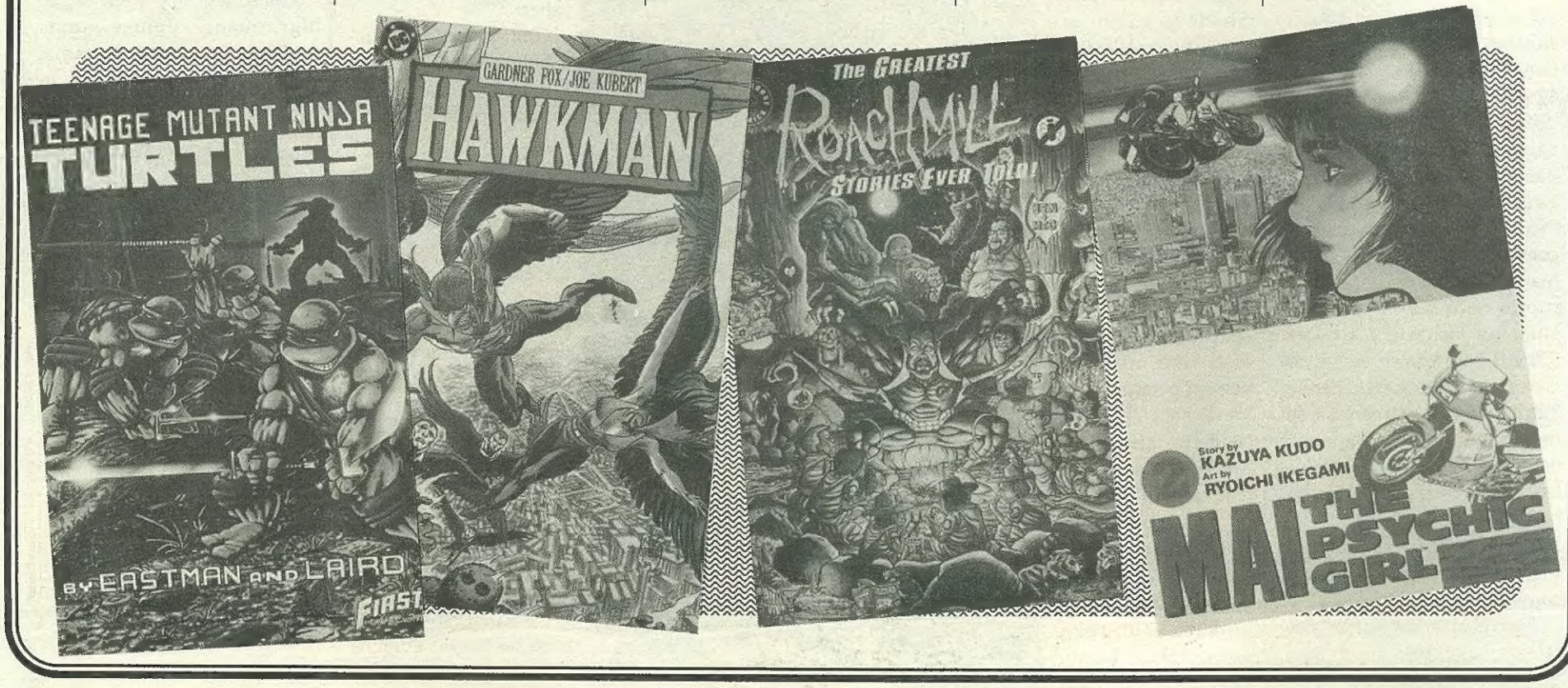
Next Nexus offers an unusual comics event: a man grows weary of being a superhero and gives up the job, prompting a search for his replacement. This four-issue series focuses on the search for Nexus' replacement. ($9.95)

Michael Moorcock's Elric stars in two trade paperbacks, ***Elric of Melnibone*** by Roy Thomas, Craig Russell, and Michael Gilbert ($14.95) and ***Elric: Sailor on the Seas of Fate*** by Roy Thomas, Michael Gilbert, and George Freeman ($14.95). These collections offer a new twist on heroic fantasy. Another trade paperback adaptation of Michael Moorcock material, ***Hawkmoon: The Jewel in the Skull*** by Gerry Conway, Rafael Kayanan ($9.95), and Rico Rival, is an Eternal Champion story starring Dorian Hawkmoon.

Every young fan who watches television can identify the ***Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles;*** many of them have never read the comics that inspired the animated series, though. First Comics makes it easy to give them a durable ***Turtles*** package on Christmas day with their ***Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*** trade paperbacks. Each of the four $9.95 volumes reprints a trio of Turtles stories in color for the first time, along with new pages unavailable anywhere else.

Elfquest was the first big comics success in trade paperback. The new Fathertree Press editions collecting the entire Elfquest saga in six trade paperbacks. These volumes not only reprint the original ***Elfquest*** stories but also the ***Elfquest: Siege at Blue Mountain*** series, all in full color with art unavailable in trade paperback before.

In addition to her Elfquest work, Wendy Pini also did artwork for a proposed animated version of Michael Moorcock's Elric. ***Law and Chaos: The Stormbringer Art of Wendy Pini*** reproduces her preproduction art, sketches, paintings, and cels for that feature. ($16.95)



TRADE PAPERBACKS

Matt Wagner's ***Mage*** brought fame to its creator and became a cult-favorite series; Donning has issued the ***Mage*** series in trade paperback format at $12.95 for each of its three volumes. Another Wagner-created series, ***Grendel,*** is also available in a massive trade paperback reprinting an entire twelve-issue storyline ($14.95). A second Grendel trade paperback, ***The Devil Inside***, reprints a critically-acclaimed series by Matt Wagner and Bernie Mireault.

Mythadventures has been a success in both novel and comics form; the comics have been fully colored in the trade paperback editions issued by Donning ($12.95 each, two volumes available).

Manga fans will find ***Barefoot Gen*** compelling reading; the three volumes currently in print tell the unfolding story of a survivor of the Hiroshima blast. At only $9.95 per volume, this series is a bargain gift idea for older readers.

Fantagraphics offers a variety of quality trade paperbacks that are fine gifts for older readers with broader tastes. ***The Complete Robert Crumb*** (three volumes, $14.95 each) offers a trade paperback history of this influential underground comics artist. ***Reaper of Love*** ($11.95) offers a smorgasbord of horror work by noted horror artist Bernie Wrightson. ***Usagi Yojimbo***, now available in three trade paperback volumes ($10.95) is a funny animal samurai story by Stan Sakai that will bring a chuckle to manga fans when it shows up under the Christmas tree.

Some of the most popular material that Fantagraphics offers, though, is the ***Love and Rockets*** series by the Hernandez Brothers. This material is available in a series of six trade paperbacks ($12.95 each); there is also a ***Love and Rockets Sketchbook*** ($19.95) that is a great gift for fans who have the original stories but haven't seen just how the series developed artistically.

Peter Bagge's ***Neat Stuff*** is a delightful series that offers an irreverent look at family life and the process of growing up in the 80's. Two trade paperbacks collecting material from this cult-favorite comic are ***The Bradleys*** and ***Studs Kirby*** ($14.95 each). Both books are sure to appeal to older readers who enjoy the work of Matt Groening and Lynda Barry.

Viz Comics offers two trade paperback series in the Japanese manga format; these books are smaller than the average trade paperback, thicker, and have dustwrappers like an American hardcover. ***Mai the Psychic Girl*** volumes, $16.95 each) and ***Grey*** (2 volumes, $16.95 each) are compact packages filled with great story and art sure to please a manga fan.

The Freak Brothers Library is another great gift idea for older readers; these four volumes, reasonably priced at $7.95 each, reprint the classic underground tales from the 60's and 70's in a durable format. ($7.95 per volume)

Vortex offers a collection of stylish and moody Mister X stories in ***Return of Mister X,*** a surreal sf series focusing on the enigmatic hero of Radiant City ($11.95)

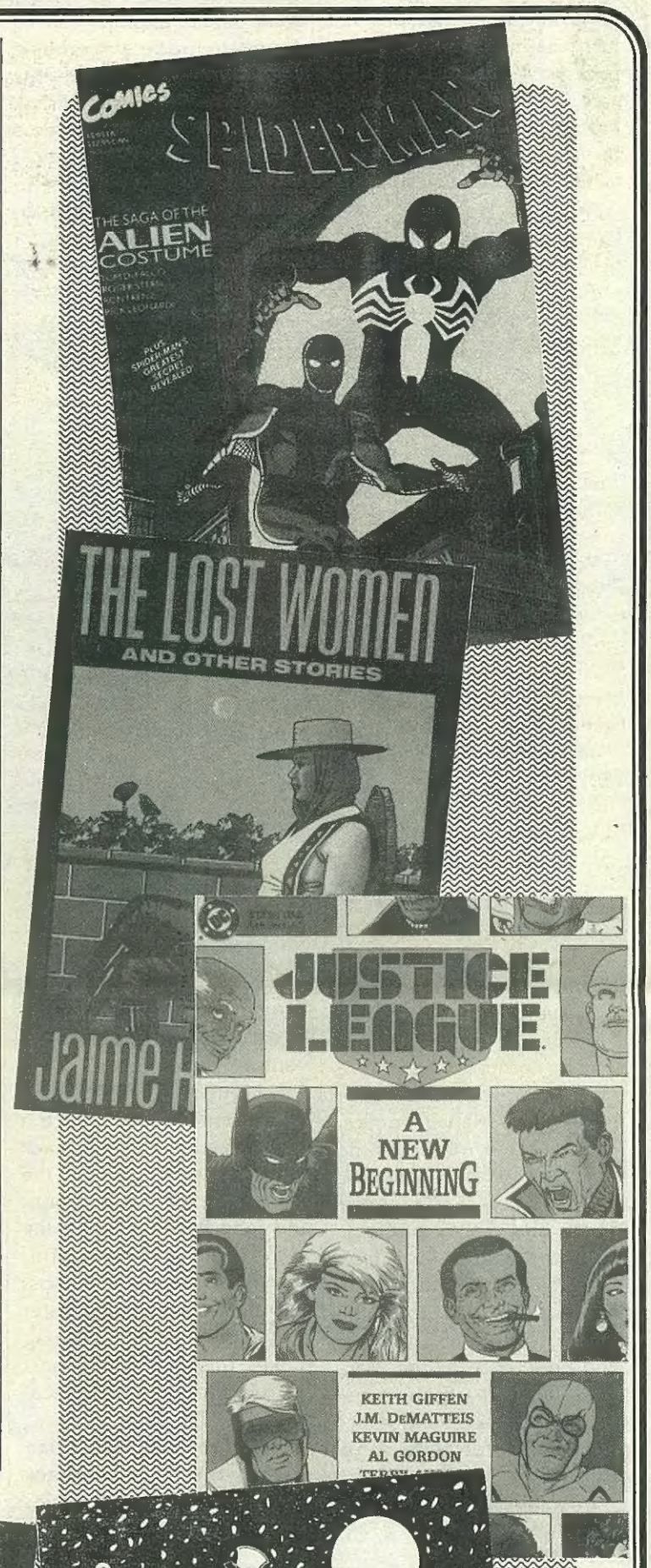
One of the more popular superhero teams is the Elementals, and their hard-to-find early issues are available in the collection ***The Natural Order.*** This $10.95 trade paperback features art by the very popular Bill Willingham.

The American Trade Paperback features the popular limited series created by Mark Verheiden. This is a great gift for Captain America fans who might enjoy a different rendition of a patriotic hero. ($6.95)

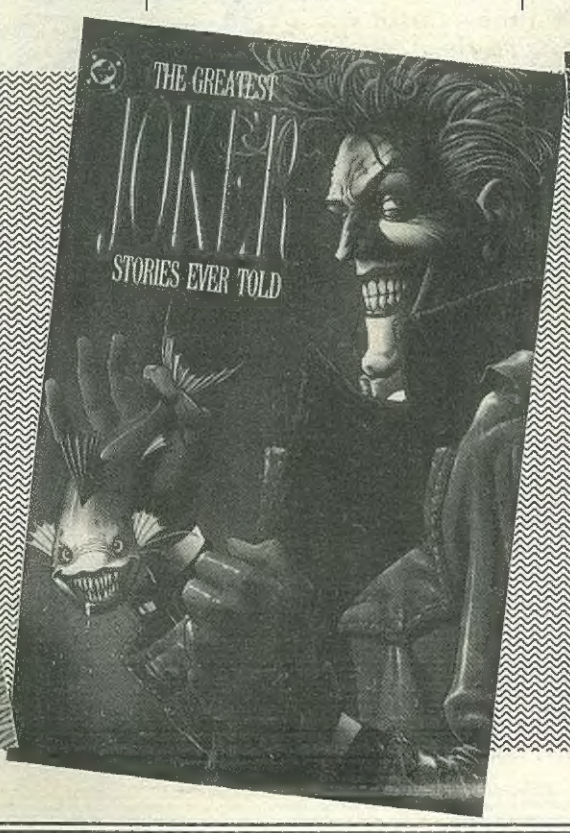
Roachmill is a grim, violent, and sometimes amusing series about an "exterminator" of the future who'll kill pretty much anything for the right price. This series has been collected in two trade paperbacks ($6.95 each).

Dark Horse Comics has a holiday offering that should appeal to fans of comics, movies, and science fiction. ***The Aliens Trade Paperback,*** set for mid-December release, will reprint the wildly successful ***Aliens*** limited series by Mark Verheiden and Mark Nelson into a single volume. For only $11.95, you can give an all-new ***Aliens*** story that's even *more* frightening than the original films!

Dinosaurs for Hire, the clever dinosaur-detective series created by Tom Mason, is a surefire holiday hit for readers young and old. Two volumes of ***Dinosaurs For Hire*** adventures are available in trade paperback, reprinting the first six issues of this series ($5.95 each).



Barefoot Gen
A Cartoon Story of Hiroshima
Keiji Nakazawa
With a Foreword by PAULA J. PAUL, EDUCATORS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



TRADE PAPERBACKS

Japanese manga fans will be thrilled with Eclipse's trade paperback collection ***Appleseed Book One: The Promethean Challenge***. This trade paperback, scheduled for pre-Christmas release, reprints the entire first series by Masamune Shirow. ($12.95)

Vic & Blood gathers together the Richard Corben comics adaptations of Harlan Ellison's *A Boy and His Dog* stories. This trade paperback offers this material in color for the first time. ($8.95)

There are no romance comics nowadays, but there is a great gift for readers who fondly remember the romance comics of the 1950's and 1960's. ***Real Love: The Best of Simon and Kirby Romance Comics*** is a collection of romance stories by Joe Simon and Jack Kirby, the creators of the romance comics. Fans who only know Simon and Kirby for their hero work will enjoy a look at another aspect of their careers. ($12.95)

No company has more trade paperbacks on the shelves than Marvel Comics. The definitive Marvel trade paperback series, ***Handbook of the Marvel Universe*** ($6.95 and $7.95 per volume, ten volumes available), is a great cornerstone to a Marvel trade paperback library. This series offers a handy reference to the Marvel heroes and villains, complete with background information, power data, and more.

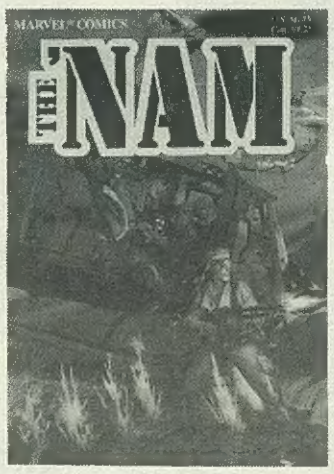
Longshot is a very expensive series in its original comics editions because it introduced fan-favorite Art Adams to the comics world. You won't have to pay big bucks if you want to give this series as a gift, though, because Marvel has made it available as a $16.95 trade paperback, offering the entire series on better-quality paper.

Longshot isn't the *only* X-Man whose exploits can be found in trade paperback. ***Wolverine*** ($8.95) reprints the Chris Claremont-Frank Miller series that is an all-time favorite among X-Men fans.

Captain Britain is a member of Marvel's mutant team Excalibur; he's also the star of a trade paperback reprinting almost 200 pages of solo adventure never before available in America. ($10.95)

X-Men: Phoenix Saga is a 192-page trade paperback reprinting nine issues of the X-Men by Chris Claremont and John Byrne, culminating in the death of Phoenix. This storyline remains the most popular X-Men saga ever presented; the $9.95 pricetag makes this one of the best gift ideas for the holiday season.

X-Men: The Asgardian Wars trade paperback ($14.95) reprints 224 pages of mutant action bringing together the X-Men, Alpha Flight, and the New Mutants. This book features art by two fan-favorites, Paul Smith and Art Adams. making it doubly enjoyable for comics art fans.



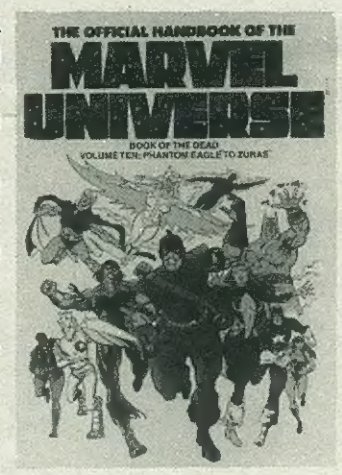
X-Men in the Savage Land collects the four ***Marvel Fanfare*** issues teaming up fan-favorites the X-Men and Spider-Man in an adventure at the center of the earth. This $6.95 collection has art by not one, not two, but three popular artists: Michael Golden, Dave Cockrum, and Paul Smith.

Speaking of Spider-Man, he stars in several paperbacks of his own. ***Spider-Man: The Saga of the Alien Costume*** ($10.95) reprints the eight Spider-Man issues dealing with "his other costume," an all-black number that briefly replaced the familiar red-and-blue longjohns known by all Spidey fans.

Amazing Spider-Man: Fearful Symmetry collects the six-issue Kraven Saga by J.M. DeMatteis, Mike Zeck, and Bob McLeod into a single hardcover collection, complete with a new Zeck cover. ($19.95)

The Punisher is one of Marvel's most popular heroes today. His popularity began with his five-issue miniseries by Steven Grant, Mike Zeck and John Beatty. ***The Punisher*** ($8.95) reprints all five of those issues into a single trade paperback with a new painted cover.

Daredevil: Born Again features the destruction and rebuilding of Daredevil as told in a great series of stories by Frank Miller and Dave Mazzucchelli ($8.95).



Daredevil and The Punisher star in the ***Child's Play*** trade paperback, which reprints ***Daredevil #182-184***, the very popular and controversial Angel Dust storyline. Both the story and the art are by Frank Miller, one of the biggest names in the industry. ($5.95)

And speaking of Daredevil, a very popular character who began her comics career in the pages of Daredevil's comic has two trade paperbacks of her own. ***Elektra: Assassin*** is a convoluted, interwoven story of Elektra's early career, brought to comics by Frank Miller and Bill Sienkiewicz ($12.95). ***Elektra Saga*** is a single-book anthology of Elektra's history as presented by writer-artist Frank Miller, Elektra's creator ($16.95).

Before Marvel became famous for its superhero books, they had established a niche for themselves with their horror/monster books. ***Monster Masterworks*** ($12.95) reprints a heaping helping of these horror tales by the likes of Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko, Dick Ayers, and others.

Barry Windsor-Smith, one of the most popular artists in the field, is an illustrator on the ***Machine Man*** series that is available in trade paperback. This series offers a glimpse of Marvel's universe in the future, and introduces the Iron Man of 2020.

Iron Man stars in his own trade paperback, a hefty volume that reprints the story of Tony Stark's bout with alcoholism. This most entertaining collection was also Marvel's first trade paperback, incidentally, and has been unavailable for many years until this holiday season. ($8.95)

The Fantastic Four: The Trial of Galactus trade paperback is a re-edited compilation of the Trial of Galactus story that ran in ***Fantastic Four #244-262***. This book pulls together all the pages relating to this storylines and re-edits them into a single entertaining book. Both story and art are by John Byrne. ($12.95)

The Fantastic Four's ever-popular Thing is featured in the ***Project Pegasus*** trade paperback. This book, featuring art by John Byrne and George Perez, also features Quasar, a super-hero who has become very popular due to the success of his own series. ($6.95)

The 'Nam is a very popular--and very realistic--chronological look at the war in Vietnam. This book has been praised for both its authenticity and entertainment value. Three trade paperbacks are available offering the first twelve issues of the series in convenient bookshelf packages that are good gift ideas for fans who enjoy war stories. ($6.95)

Nick Fury Vs. SHIELD is the mini-series that inspired the current hit ***SHIELD*** series. The entire mini-series is available in a single-volume trade paperback, complete with a new cover by Bob Larkin. ($15.95)

For older readers with more sophisticated tastes, ***Blood*** ($16.95) and ***Moonshadow*** ($18.95) reprint two painted fantasy series featuring art by Jon Muth and Kent Williams respectively. These are *not* typical comics, which is part of their charm.

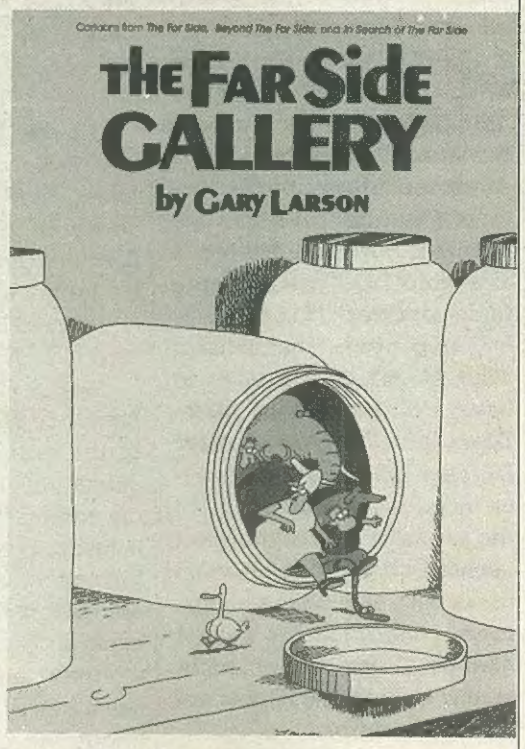
All these holiday choices! And this list is still far from complete! If you want to know more about what's available, talk to Santa's helpers at your local comics shop and see what they can do to make this the most memorable Christmas ever!

COMIC STRIP REPRINTS

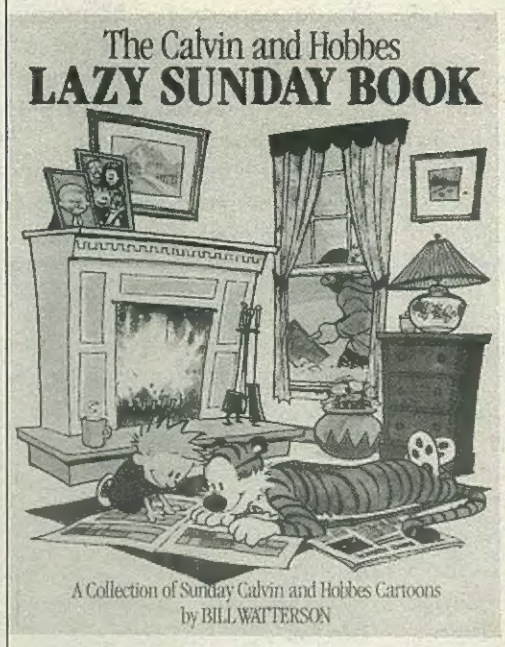
Comics fans often overlook the original comics art form: the comic strip. Comic *strips* predate the comic *book* by decades. Many of the best strips of both today and yesterday can be found in handy trade paperbacks and hardcover anthologies that can open up an all-new world of comics reading.

The most quirky and offbeat comic strip today is a single-panel piece of zaniness entitled ***The Far Side*** by Gary Larson. There are nine separate smaller volumes available, but the packages that are best for gift-giving are the larger ***Far Side Gallery*** trade paperbacks, each offering most of the contents of three of the smaller books in a larger format complete with some color pages. Also available in ***The Prehistory of the Far Side***, a look back at the creation of the series, complete with entertaining commentary by Larson himself. ($9.95 for the ***Gallery*** volumes; $5.95 for the smaller collections; $12.95 for ***A Prehistory of the Far Side***)

Closing in fast on ***The Far Side*** in terms of popularity is the clever ***Calvin and Hobbes***. Bill Watterson's story, focusing on a young boy and his stuffed tiger that becomes real when no one else is around, has become popular with almost everyone and is widely acclaimed as the best new strip in the past decade. ***Calvin and Hobbes*** ($6.95) is the first book, followed by ***Something Under the Bed Is Drooling*** ($6.95). The perfect gift package, though, is ***The Essential Calvin and Hobbes,*** which offers the contents of both books plus an all-new color story done just for this edition($12.95). The latest Calvin and Hobbes release is ***Calvin and Hobbes' Lazy Sunday Book*** ($8.95) a collection of Sunday pages, some in full color.



This year saw the demise of a very popular comic strip, ***Bloom County.*** Berke Breathed's humor strip featuring Opus, Bill the Cat, Steve Dallas and many others lives on in comic shops, though.



There are seven volumes of ***Bloom County*** strips, ranging in price from $6.95 to $12.95. The latest volume to be released is ***Night of the Mary Kay Commandoes*** ($7.95).

The ever-popular ***Doonesbury*** is still reprinted in trade paperback. The latest volume is ***Give Those Nymphs Some Hooters!*** ($6.95), featuring the Donald Trump storyline, among others. Doonesbury books make great gifts for older fans who enjoy social satire and political commentary mixed with humor.

A very insightful comic strip that inspires comments like "That's right!" in everyone who reads it is matt Groening's ***Life In Hell. Love Is Hell, Work Is Hell,*** and ***School Is Hell*** are great gifts at $5.95 each. Groening's work is becoming more and more popular because his work appears regularly on Fox Network's ***The Tracy Ullman Show.***

But while all these newer strips make for great reading, the strips the comics fan will probably enjoy most are older strips. The premiere adventure strip, ***Prince Valiant***, is currently being reprinted in a series of oversized $14.95 trade paperback in full color. Eight volumes are available right now, and Fantagraphics continues to publish the books right on schedule. These volumes offer some of Hal Foster's best material in a size that admirably presents the art as it should be seen.

Fantagraphics is also the publisher of the stunning ***Complete Little Nemo in Slumberland*** series, which has set for itself the ambitious goal of reprinting the entire ***Little Nemo*** run in full color. These oversized volumes, priced at $29.95 each, are painstakingly reproduced from hard-to-find Sunday pages; once you see them, you'll wonder why color newspaper comics can't look this good today! Two volumes are available so far.

Fantagraphics has also assembled two volumes of ***Little Orphan Annie*** reprints, collecting hard-to-find early strips by Harold Gray into volumes offering a year's worth of ***Annie.*** Each volume is priced at $14.95.

E.C. Segar's ***Popeye*** is available in a series of quality reprints. This strip is much more complex and entertaining than the ***Popeye*** cartoons (which are pretty darned entertaining in their own right!). Eight volumes are available so far, at $12.95 to $16.95 each.

Kitchen Sink is engaged in a grand plan to reprint the entire run of Al Capp ***Li'l Abner*** strips in trade paperback. They've released five volumes so far, each reprinting a year's worth of daily strips. Each volume also includes fascinating background information about Capp and his comic strip work. ($16.95 each)

Nancy has been described by some as the quintessential gag strip. Kitchen Sink is offering collections of Nancy strips, organized by subject; the first two available are ***Nancy Eats Food*** and ***How Sluggo Survives.*** ($7.95 each)

The mark of ***Zorro*** is clearly visible in Eclipse's two-volume graphic novel format set that reprints the superb Alex Toth Zorro comic strip series. ($8.95 per volume)

James Bond has starred in a comic strip series in England for quite a while; there are two volumes of reprints available in British import graphic albums from Titan Books ($9.95 each).

Another popular British mystery-adventure series is ***Modesty Blaise,*** the story of a female adventurer and her partner Willie Garvin. There are six graphic albums reprinting entire stories from this comic strip series ($9.95 each).

Eclipse has gone *way* back in comics history with its ***Krazy & Ignatz: The Komplete Kat Komics.*** Each volume offers a year of Sunday strips, along with informative background facts. ($9.95 each)

Every comics fan knows Spider-Man; they may not know, however, that there's a trade paperback reprinting the ***Spider-Man*** comic strip that many Spidey fans have never seen. ($9.95)

Terry and the Pirates was a classic adventure-aviation strip from the 1930's and 1940's. NBM is reprinting these quality strips in graphic album format ($5.95 per volume); they are also available in slipcased editions. NBM is also offering ***Wash Tubbs and Cap'n Easy*** in both high quality hardcover and trade paperback editions ($37.50/ $16.95).

Kitchen Sink is offering a reprinting of the entire Dashiell Hammett-Alex Raymond ***Secret Agent X-9*** comic strip series just in time for Christmas gift-giving. ***Secret Agent X-9: Welcome to Hades, 1934*** ($13.95) reprints the entire 1934-35 run of this strip, including a few non-Hammett strips that finish off the storyline. ***Secret Agent X-9*** predates Raymond's ***Flash Gordon*** (which is *also* being reprinted by Kitchen Sink; one volume is available so far).

There are many other strip reprints available, including volumes of ***Garfield, Peanuts, Wizard of Id,*** and more. Ask the staff of your local comic shop for suggestions for comic strip reprint books that would make excellent--and unexpected--gifts for the holidays. Who knows? Before too long, you might find those comics fans eagerly scanning through the daily newspaper (if they don't already)...

BOOKS ABOUT COMICS

Comics fans are often interested in their hobby to such a degree that they want to read *about* comics as much as they want to read the comics themselves. There are a number of books that focus on comics as a hobby, or on the lives of noteworthy comics creators.

The Comic Book In America: An Illustrated History by Mike Benton is a must-have essential for any hardcore comics fan's library. This is a look at the history of the medium, filled with over 500 full color illustrations of comics new and old. The book traces the medium from 1933 to the present, and covers the entire field, from funny-animal to super-hero to genre comics. At only $29.95, this is one of the best gifts you can give a comics fan for the holidays.

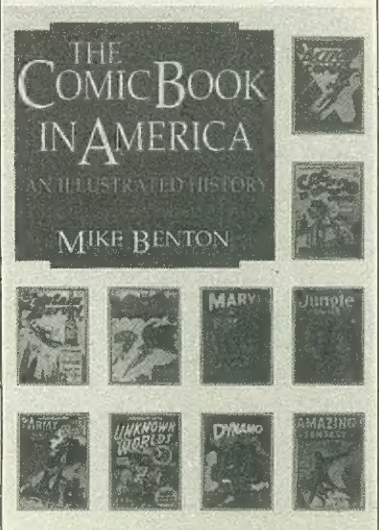
Jim Steranko, acclaimed comics artist, also created some outstanding books of comics history almost two decades ago. ***Steranko's History of Comics Volume 1 and 2*** ($10 and $12 respectively) look at pulp heroes, Golden Age stars, and the creators who formed the comics industry. No one has offered a more comprehensive, insightful look at the early days of the industry than Steranko.

Marvel Comics offers a great trade paperback aimed at would-be comics artists, ***How to Draw Comics the Marvel Way***. The book is a wonderful reference for the comics fan who wants to become an artist some day. It demonstrates all the basics of comic book illustration ($10.95).

For the fan who is eager to learn how to draw comics but doesn't have any interest in reading a book about it, Marvel has put the lessons on video tape. ***How to Draw Comics the Marvel Way*** covers the same material as the book, but the would-be artist can watch it instead of reading it. ($24.95)

There is no doubt that a true master of comics art is Will Eisner. Thankfully, Eisner is willing to share his insight into comics art with fans everywhere in the brilliant ***Comics and Sequential Art,*** which Eclipse has kept in print so that would-be comics artists can find out how it's done. This book discusses a number of things about design and composition that ***How to Draw Comics the Marvel Way*** never touches on. ($14.95)

Eisner has also produced a comic book that is an excellent reference work about the early days of comics from someone who was there. In ***The Dreamer,*** Eisner presents nostalgic looks at the creators of the early comics, with name changes, and shows what it was like to be in on the ground floor of the creation of a new medium. For only $8.95 in trade paperback, it's a wonderful gift.



For the fan of Japanese animation and Japanese comics, ***Manga! Manga! The World of Japanese Comics*** by Frederik L. Schotdt is a fine reference. Heavy on text, photos, and art samples, this book could make the season very jolly for fans of Japanese comic books.

Japanese comics fans will also be pleased with all three volumes of ***Robotech Art***. Ranging in price from $12.95 to $16.95, these three volumes offer artwork and production information relating to the ever-popular Robotech series.

Adventures in Superman Collecting ($200) is a hefty hardcover with hundreds of color photos. This book is a massive overview of the world of Superman collecting, with photos of toys, giveaways, and other Superman-related items that many fans have never even heard of!

Superman is the subject of ***Superman at Fifty: The Persistence of a Legend*** ($16.95 hc, $9.95 pb). This book is a very entertaining collection of essays about the Man of Steel, his creators, and his role in comic book history.

Batman has also received historical treatment in ***Tales of the Dark Knight: Batman's First Fifty Years 1939-1989***. This is a comprehensive history of Batman, complete with dozens of color and black and white photos from all decades. At only $17.95, this is an inexpensive gift that will help introduce new Batman fans to the hero's multi-faceted history.

The creator of Batman has also told his story, and you can read all about it in ***Batman and Me*** by Bob Kane. This trade paperback offers an insightful look into Kane's creation of the hero, the development of Batman, and the early days of the comics industry. It also reprints hard-to-find Batman stories and art. ($14.95--also available in hardcover)

Comics Interview Press has published a $9.95 special collection of Batman-related interviews with creators who have been important in the Darknight Detective's history,

including Jerry Robinson, Bob Kane, Frank Miller, and others. Batman fans will be entertained and surprised by some of the revelations in these interviews.

The Great Comic Book Artists by Ron Goulart is an informative collection of biographical sketches about famous comics talents. With its brief biographies and art samples, it's a mini-course in comics that will entertain and educate. There are two volumes currently available ($12.95 per volume).

The Masters of Comic Book Art (KVP $19.95) offers interviews with popular comics creators, including Will Eisner, Jack Kirby, Neal Adams, Berni Wrightson, Frank Miller, and more. This unique item is a fine gift for any comics fan with access to a VCR--and it may not be available much longer, so don't pass it up.

One of the most popular independent comics is Elfquest, and Elfquest fans are always interested in material that ties in with Wendy Pini's marvelous fantasy creation. A gift that will give them hours of reading would be the two volume set entitled ***The Elfquest Gatherum*** ($8.95 per volume). These handsome trade paperbacks fit nicely alongside the ***Elfquest*** collections mentioned in the trade paperback section of this ***CSN Holiday Special.***

Most comics fans have no idea how much work an artist puts into mastering his craft; a

book that will give them a little insight into the process (plus a lot of entertainment) is ***The Steve Rude Sketchbook*** from Kitchen Sink ($14.95). This book gives fans a peek into the sketchbook of one of the most talented artists in the field; Rude will be illustrating the ***World's Finest*** Superman-Batman team-up next year.

The Love and Rockets Sketchbook also offers behind-the-scenes developmental artwork; this volume features the work of the award-winning Hernandez Brothers ($19.95). Wendy Pini's ***Law and Chaos: The Art of Stormbringer*** offers a look at the work Wendy Pini did for a proposed Stormbringer animated feature. The film fell through, but the art work is available in this handsome trade paperback ($16.95).

Two books that fans of ***Mad Magazine*** will want to have are ***The Art of Jack Davis*** and ***The Art of Mort Drucker*** ($35 each), hardcover indexes and samplings of the works of two of the most talented caricaturists/artists in the comics field. Since almost every comics fan has been a ***Mad*** fan at one time or another, this is a gift that almost everyone can enjoy.

Acclaimed French artist Moebius is the focus of ***The Art of Moebius*** ($19.95), a trade paperback offering an overview of the many facets of Moebius' career.

Prehistory of the Far Side, Gary Larson's latest collection, is a fascinating behind-the-scenes look at how Larson created some of the most-enjoyed humor panels of all time. It also features rejected ideas, commentary, and some of Larson's favorite strips. ($12.95)

If your gift recipient enjoys reading interviews with comics creators, he'll have some unforgettable holiday reading in store when he receives a gift of ***The New Comics***, a trade paperback that reprints a variety of interviews from the pages of ***The Comics Journal***. This $8.95 volume gives fans a chance to sit in on conversations with Frank Miller, Bill Watterson, Alan Moore, and others.

The Encyclopedia of Super-Heroes and ***The Encyclopedia of Super-Villains*** are *just* what they sound like: books that feature over 2500 comic book characters, giving data about the heroes, the villains, and their history. ($19.95 each)

A comics fan who hopes to make a career out of buying and selling his favorite reading material would be very much helped by a copy of ***Investing in Comics*** by D.W. Howard. This $9.95 trade paperback gives a wealth of information about how to invest, how to buy and sell, and how to make money in the comics field.

Comics fans are often cartoon fans, and one of the best book about cartoons is ***Of Mice and Magic,*** by Leonard Maltin. This is an informative and entertaining history of animation. ($14.95)

Chuck Amuck is a look at the career of animator Chuck Jones, known for his work on some of the best Warner Brothers cartoons of all times. It's insightful and informative, and should be a most appreciated gift. ($19.95)

Disney Animation: The Illusion of Life ($29.95) is one of the best books about the animation process ever produced; this massive hardcover is just packed with art and information, and is a gift that animation fans will refer to again and again.

And if this isn't enough of a selection of holiday goodies about the comics field, you can find still more at your local comic shop. Talk to the friendly people there and let them know what sort of thing you're looking for; they'll take over from there and point out a variety of great gift ideas on their shelves.

GRAPHIC NOVELS

adventure that should be a fine gift for Punisher fans. ($6.95)

Marvel also offers several sword-and-sorcery graphic novels; ***Marada the She-Wolf*** is a Marvel original featuring the sword-wielding heroine by Claremont and Bolton ($6.95). ***Conan of the Isles*** reunites Roy Thomas and John Buscema for a new Conan tale featuring a much older Conan ($7.95). ***Kull: The Vale of the Shadow*** is a story by Zelenetz and DeZuniga that pits Kull against death itself. ($6.95)

Doctor Who doesn't star in his own comic any more, but Marvel did give Who fans a Doctor Who graphic novel, ***Voyager,*** this year. This story by Parkhouse and Ridgeway pits Doctor Who and Frobisher against the Voyager. Ex-Doctor Colin Baker writes the afterword. ($8.95)

Eclipse has some fine graphic novels; while most of their books are aimed at the older fan, one title that readers of all ages can enjoy is Dave Stevens' ***Rocketeer.*** This story is an adventure inspired by the heroic action films of the 1930's, and it captures their mood and tone perfectly. Doc Savage fans will be particularly happy with this gift. ($7.95)

Scott Hampton, a very talented artist, has produced two stunning painted graphic novels for Eclipse. The first, ***Silverheels*** ($12.95) is an original fantasy; the second, ***Pigeons From Hell*** ($7.95), is an adaptation of the classic Robert E. Howard horror story.

If horror is what your gift recipient enjoys, there's no better choice than ***Tapping the Vein***, Eclipse's graphic novel adaptations of Clive Barker's ***Books of Blood***. This is strong stuff, but the volumes make great gifts for older horror readers. ($6.95 per volume)

Eclipse has another graphic novel series that makes a great gift for fantasy fans of all ages. ***The Hobbit*** ($4.95 per volume) adapts J.R.R. Tolkien's classic fantasy into comics for the first time. The first volume is available right now, with two more volumes two follow.

Fans who are interested in a healthy dose of reality will enjoy ***Brought to Light,*** a graphic novel that exposes government corruption and scandal. Alan Moore, Bill Sienkiewicz, Joyce Brabner, and Tom Yeates create the two stories that make up this volume. ($8.95)

Gladstone Comics offers a series of ***Disney Graphic Albums*** featuring outstanding stories starring Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Uncle Scrooge, and others. Disney's universal appeal will make these great comics gifts for fans young and old. ($5.95-$12.95)

Gladstone has also produced a graphic novel adaptation of ***Tummy Trouble,*** this summer's hit Roger Rabbit cartoon. This graphic novel uses art from the actual animation cels, making it as faithful to the original as you can get! ($7.95)

4Winds offers a selection of great graphic novels from both foreign and American creators. ***Moving Fortress*** and its sequel, ***Sub-Terra,*** bring Barreiro's and Alcatena's surreal fantasy to American readers for the first time. These graphic novels make superb gifts for comics readers who enjoy more than just super-heroes. ($8.98 per volume)

Alvar Mayor: Death and Silver ($8.98) is a historical adventure about the son of a conquistador who rejects his father's ways. Trillo and Breccia are major names in the international comics field; this graphic novel brings their work to American readers for the first time.

Attu is a new science-fantasy adventure by writer/artist Sam Glanzman. This story features dinosaurs, aliens, and heroic fantasy, all combined into an epic storyline. ($12.95)

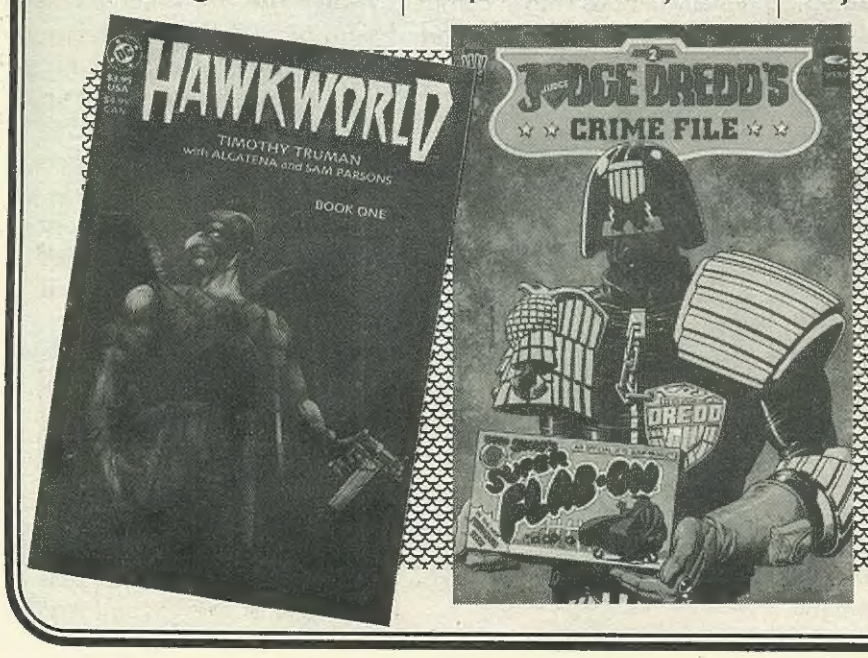
4Winds' biggest project of the year, though, is set for December release. ***Wilderness Book One: The Borderland*** is the first volume of a graphic novel series telling the true story of Simon Girty. This rough-edged graphic novel is perhaps Tim Truman's best work ever; fans who enjoyed his ***Hawkworld*** series should *thrill* over this historical saga. ($14.95--also available in hardcover)

One of the most famous British creations in the comics medium is that hero who sees the law without grays, Judge Dredd. There have been over two dozen ***Judge Dredd*** graphic albums released through Titan Books; many of the later ones feature covers by top-name artist Bill Sienkiewicz ($9.95-$12.95 each).

DC's Batman graphic novel ***Son of the Demon*** is a strong story about Batman's marriage, and is a great stand-alone Batman adventure for fans of Batman no matter what their ages. ($8.95)

The Batman Movie Adaptation ($4.95) is another graphic novel that is a must-have for Bat-fans. This top-notch comics rendition of the hit film features outstanding artwork by Jerry Ordway ($4.95).

Bat-fans will also want ***Batman: The Killing Joke***, a graphic novel that pits the Batman against his nemesis the Joker. This Alan Moore-



GRAPHIC NOVELS

Brian Bolland story is strong stuff; it's interesting in that it offers a different look at the Joker's origin. ($3.95)

Gotham by Gaslight is a new graphic novel that takes a different look at Batman. What if Batman had lived in the 1890's? What if he had faced the menace of Jack the Ripper? That's the story of this work by Brian Augustyn, Mike Mignola, and P. Craig Russell. ($4.95)

Of course, there's ***Arkham Asylum,*** the painted graphic novel that takes Batman into the Asylum after the inmates have taken over. This is a sophisticated, mature work for older, more discriminating readers. ($24.95)

Kitchen Sink has lowered the price on one of the best graphic novels of all time, making it a bargain gift indeed! ***A Signal From Space*** is an original story by Will Eisner, available in hardcover for only $6.95! What if man were contacted by an alien race; how would this affect the world around us? Find out in this compelling story.

Eisner's more down-to-earth work is featured in such selections as ***New York: The City*** ($6.95), a slice-of-life work of the sort Eisner is famous for, and ***A Life Force*** ($10.95), which is another look at life in the Big Apple.

Eisner looks at the early days of comics in ***The Dreamer,*** a *roman a clef* graphic novel about the birth of the comics medium. ($9.95)

Cadillacs and Dinosaurs presents stunning Mark Schultz artwork in a world in which dinosaurs and man co-exist. The outstanding visuals in this book have won wide praise, making this a great gift for art-fans. ($12.95)

Taboo is a horror graphic novel series from Spiderbaby Grafix that is *graphic* indeed; these volumes are intended for older fans of horror who aren't easily shocked. Each volume offers outstanding work by a variety of horror writers and artists, including Alan Moore, John totleben, Steve Bissette, and others. ($9.95 per book)

Comics Interview has printed several graphic novels starring its Southern superhero team ***.Southern Knights*** ($5.95-$6.95 each). They also have a ***Psycops*** novel featuring the stunning artwork of Brian Stelfreeze ($9.95).

A graphic novel that has received a great deal of critical acclaim is ***Maus,*** Art Spiegelman's comics allegory of the Holocaust and the rise of Naziism. ($8.95)

Matt Wagner's ***Grendel*** is featured in a graphic novel written and illustrated by Wagner himself. This story focuses on the pre-Christine Spar Grendel. ($7.95)

James Bond stars in a pair of graphic novels from Eclipse. ***License to Kill*** adapts the latest James Bond film, and has stunning artwork by Mike Grell, Tom Yeates, and Stan Woch. ($7.95). ***James Bond: Permission to Die*** is a three-volume original James Bond adventure by Mike Grell; the first volume is available this holiday season. ($3.95)

Miracleman: Book One is the quintessential Alan Moore superhero story, illustrated by Leach and Davis. This is the first grimly realistic look at the superhero. ($9.95)

Other graphic novels that extend beyond the superhero field include ***Rio,*** a superb Western by Doug Wildey ($8.95); ***The World of Ginger Fox,*** a story set in modern hollywood ($8.95); ***Dracula,*** an adaptation of the classic horror novel ($6.95); ***Greenberg the Vampire,*** a modern vampire story with a twist ($5.95); ***Night and the Enemy,*** a graphic novel adaptation of some of the short stories of award-winning author Harlan Ellison ($8.95); and ***Neuromancer,*** a graphic novel adapting the cyberpunk sf novel by William Gibson ($8.95).

In addition to the graphic novels mentioned, your local comics shop has dozens of other titles available, and may even have copies of some graphic novels that are out of print from the publishers. If all these titles are new and confusing to you, the staff can help you find books to appeal to your gift recipient. They can direct you to many other graphic novels not mentioned in these pages that can make a happy holiday possible for readers of every taste!

The Simon and Kirby Golden Age Classic Returns!!

This deluxe hardcover edition represents one of comics' most renowned and rare series. Billed as "the super hero who laughed at himself," FIGHTING AMERICAN was the creation of Joe Simon and Jack Kirby as a response to the anti-Communist movement of the fifties.

THE FIGHTING AMERICAN hardcover makes a perfect collector's library addition, as well as an ideal gift for the Holiday Season!

On Sale Now From Marvel® Comics!

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MISCELLANEOUS GIFTS

As the holidays get closer and closer and you're still having trouble finding ideas for gifts for a comics collector, you might want to consider numerous smaller items that any collector can use. Most of these gift ideas are inexpensive, readily available, and very popular with collectors.

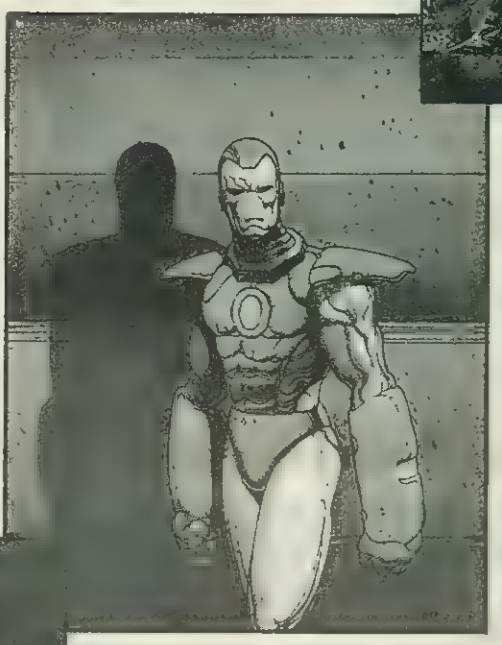
Comics bags are great gifts. A hundred bags aren't very expensive, are often useful, and are frequently overlooked when collectors are buying for themselves. If you know a collector who has a large collection he's never gotten around to bagging--a common problem with collectors who have thousands of books--then a thousand bags would be even better!

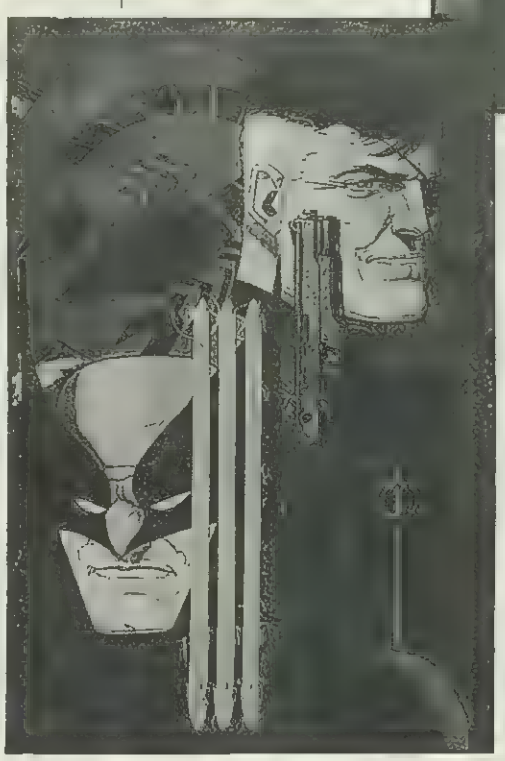
If you want to give the collector a real "gift assortment," then put together a package of a hundred modern bags (to fit recent comic books), a hundred silver age bags (to fit older comics and slightly-larger independent books), and a hundred magazine bags (for magazines and graphic novels). Even if the collector is well-stocked on bags now, he'll be able to use them later. Furthermore, many collectors never remember to buy the odd-sized bags they need for some items in their collections. This assortment will cover books of all sizes.

Backing boards are real "splurge items" that most collectors never buy for themselves. These are acid-free specially-treated boards that fit in the bag behind the comic book, adding strength to the bagged comic and protecting it from bending and other damage. Again, most comic shops carry these buy the hundreds or the thousands; they're not only useful and functional gifts, but they can make a collection look much, much better as well!

What about *boxes?* If you're looking for last-minute gifts and you're tired of seeing comics scattered all over the house, then you should really consider a gift of comics boxes. For those fans who have plenty of room, full-sized boxes are perfect; these boxes are about 27" long, and they hold about 350 comics. For collectors who are trying to keep their collections in bedroom closets, half-sized boxes might be a better idea; these boxes are about 15" long and hold just a little more than half as many comics as as a full-sized box holds. Since they're not as deep, though, they fit in a closet easily. Magazine boxes are also available for graphic novels and magazines; these only come in one shorter length.

Plastic dividers are a luxury item that can help organize a collection; these sturdy dividers are like the ones many comic shops use, and they offer a tab that stands taller than books and has room to mark titles, etc. This will help keep the collection neatly separated and make it more accessible to the collector who likes to keep everything organized. These are available individually or in hundred lots.





The best idea yet might be to combine all four into a gift package, complete with 300 bags, 300 backing boards, a dozen divider cards, and a full-sized box; or 200 bags, 200 backing boards, a half-dozen dividers, and a shorter box. This will give the collector enough bags and backing boards to fill up the box with his newly-bagged collection, along with divider cards to keep the books neat and orderly.

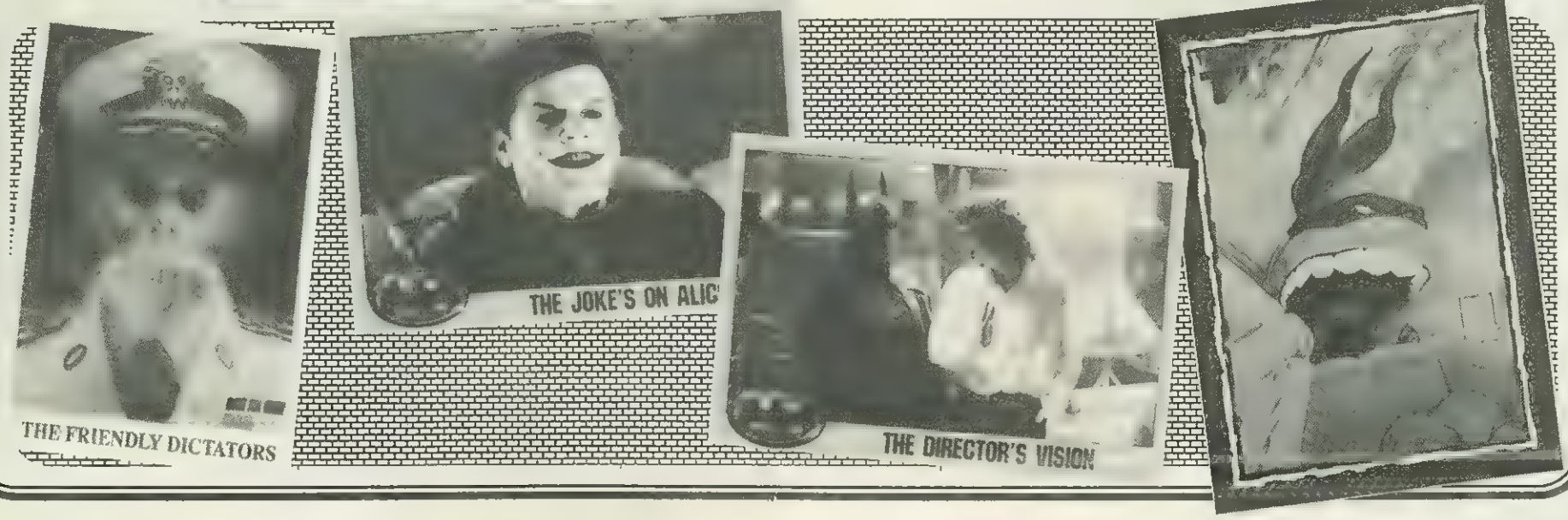
Another thoughtful gift that's great as a stocking stuffer is a "*first issue pack.*" Ask your comics shop's staff to help you select a dozen or so recent first issues. Not only are first issues the ones most likely to become valuable, but they also give the collector a chance to sample a new title from its beginning. There are hundreds of comics published each month, and most collectors simply can't afford to try every first issue--but they'd certainly appreciate it if someone gave them an assortment as a gift.

Posters make fine gifts for comics fans. There are dozens of posters from Marvel, DC, First, and many other companies, all featuring favorite characters illustrated by popular artists. Most of these posters sell for less than $6, making them inexpensive wall decorations and gift ideas.

Buttons are great stocking stuffers. Comic shops have assortments of comics-related buttons and cloisonne pins ranging in price from $1 to $8; a handful of buttons featuring favorite characters is sure to please.

Many comic shops also offer a wide variety of *collector's cards.* There are three set of deluxe Batman cards--two from the movie and one painted set--available now, along with wax packs of the movie cards. Some comic shops also carry politically-oriented cards released by Eclipse Comics, along with sports cards.

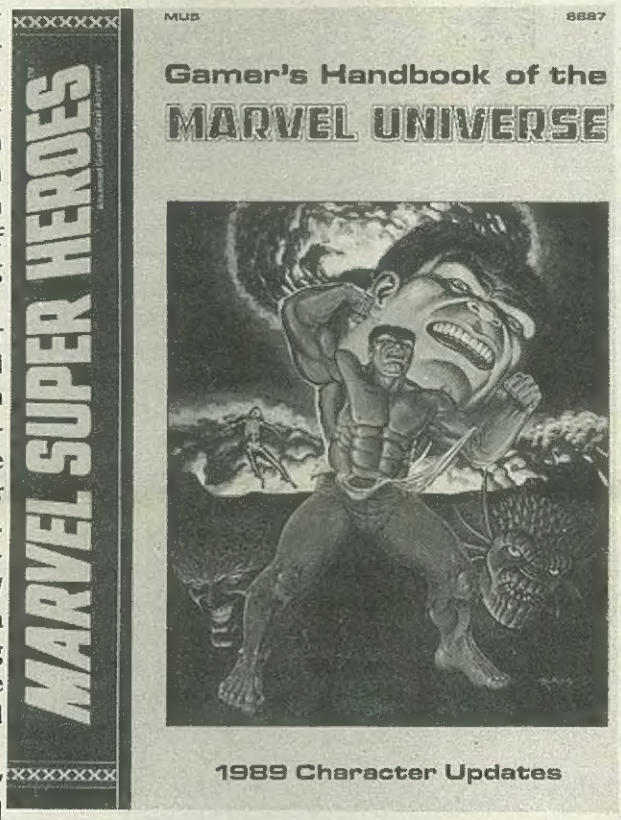
Comic shops also carry comics-related calendars, stuffed toys, adventure books, illustrated novels, and the like, all of which are suitable for gift giving. Check with your local comic shop and see what they have for last-minute gift giving. There's no better "Santa's helper" than your local comics shop staff; they know what's new, what's available, and they can work within a price range that you set. With their help, you can be sure to find items to make this holiday season memorable for a comics fan.



GAMES & MODULES

Games and comics: the two seem to go hand-in-hand. Many comics fans are also gaming fans, while many others would like to learn more about the world of role-playing games. The number of games available is incredible, but in this ***CSN Holiday Special,*** we'll focus only on those games that might have a particularly strong appeal to comics fans.

One of the biggest advantages to games is that they encourage fans to use their own imagination to create adventures, characters, and situations. The fan can get actively involving in gaming and can spend yours with friends or by himself enjoying a gaming gift.



The two major comics-related games are based on characters and concepts created by the two most popular comics companies. ***The Marvel Super-Heroes Advanced Set*** ($15) is a deluxe role-playing game based on the characters featured in Marvel Comics. There are many modules and sourcebooks available to accompany the ***Marvel Superheroes Advanced Set.*** The most essential set of references, though, are the five volume ***Gamer's Handbook To the Marvel Universe*** ($13.95 per volume). These books give ga-mers a comprehensive listing of Marvel heroes and villains and their powers.

DC Role-Playing Game ($17) from Mayfair Games offers a huge assortment of materials in one inexpensive game box. The game is easy to learn and can be expanded very readily. The game set offers everything that superhero fans need in order to begin role-playing the exploits of their favorite DC characters. There are numerous sourcebooks and modules designed to accompany this game, including books focusing on Superman, Batman, and the Legion of Super-Heroes. The Watchmen are featured in a pair of modules as well.

Champions ($12) is the oldest of the hero gams. With this game book, the gamer has everything he needs to enter the world of superhero role-playing except for dice. Since this game isn't affiliated with any individual publishing company, the games player can create his own characters with unique powers or can adapt his favorite heroes from other companies. There are many modules available for this game as well.

Heroes Unlimited ($14.95) gives superhero fans yet another game book into which they can place their own heroes. This game has recently been revised and updated, making it more popular than ever. ***Villains and Vigilantes*** ($13) also allows fans to create their own heroes and powers. In addition, there are modules and sourcebooks that offer already-created characters and adventures.

One of the most popular new gaming systems is the ***Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*** game ($9.95). This game adapts Eastman's and Laird's hardshell heroes into role-playing form. There are new modules and reference works to accompany the basic game.

Bullwinkle and Rocky is a role-playing game featuring Frostbite Falls favorite son in action against the evil Boris and Natasha. Dudley Doright, Snidely Whiplash, and all the rest of the gang are also here in this whimsical role playing game ($15).

Toon from Steve Jackson Games is more popular than ever thanks to the popularity of ***Who Framed Roger Rabbit?*** This game, which predates the film by years, allows players to become funny animal cartoon characters, subject to the rather warped rules that regulate toon behavior ($9.95).

Stormbringer ($24.95) offers the popular Michael Moorcock character Elric in a fantasy game ***and Dragons*** is the kind of the role-playing game; with ***Advanced Dungeons and Dragons*** appearing in comics form from DC, more comics fans than ever before are getting interested in this game. There are five boxed sets ($13-$15), plus a variety of sourcebooks and references. Some of the books have been revised this year; many D&D players would be thrilled to receive updated books as gifts.

Robotech is a continually hot gaming item; for the Japanese animation fan, it would be a great gaming gift.

Star Trek has inspired a number of games, but the most popular of them all is ***Star Trek Basic*** ($15). This is a stripped-down role playing game that will introduce the gamer to the world of Star Trek. There is also a deluxe set with many extras, along with dozens of modules that support this game.

For fans of Star Trek-inspired outer space warfare games, there is ***Star Fleet Battles*** ($24.95 per volume, three volumes). Again, there are sourcebooks and captain's logs available to supplement this game.

Star Wars is a gaming system based on the George Lucas films. The basic game ($15) is augmented by a variety of reference books and supplements.

James Bond has infiltrated the game world with his own rpg. ***James Bond Basic Set*** ($14.95) gives the gamer everything he needs to begin playing; there are numerous expansion modules available as well.

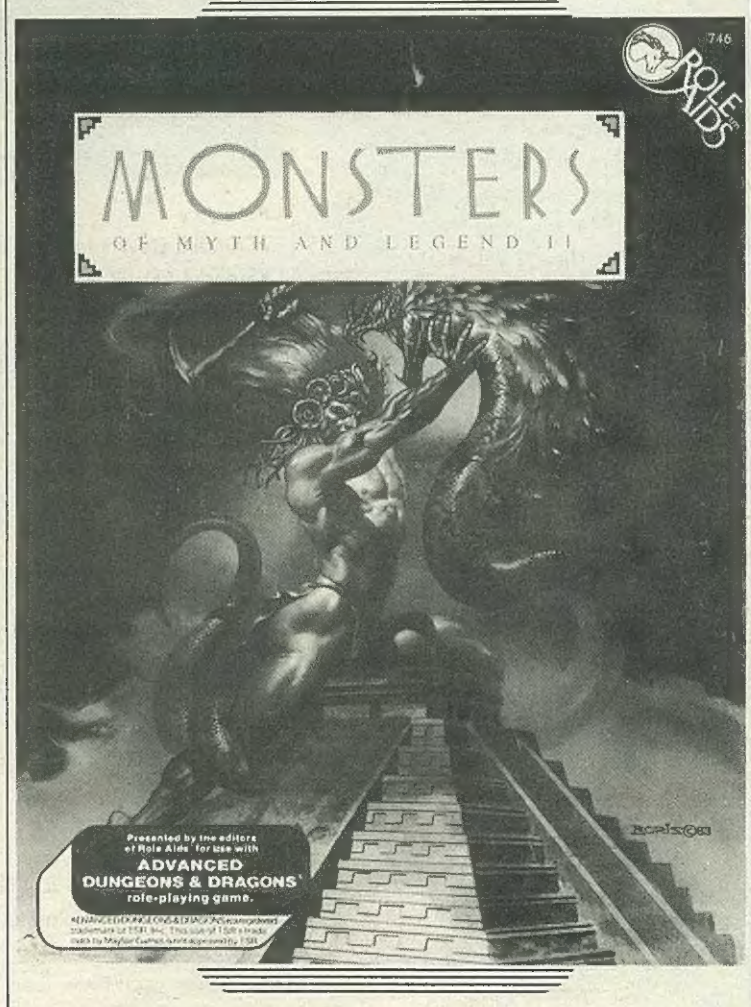
Wild Cards, the popular paperback series about superheroes, is available as a game to accompany Steve Jackson's GURPS set. This should be especially popular, what with Wild Cards coming to comics next year from Marvel.

Elfquest, the popular Wendy Pini comic, is available in a newly revised board game just in time for the holidays, featuring new cover art by Wendy Pini ($25).

TSR has added two board games to its line-up; both of them are sure to be popular with comics fans. ***Buck Rogers*** is inspired by the sf-adventure series of the same name, while ***Dragonlance*** is a board-game based on the popular TSR modules. Both of them are large boxed games with scores of accessories; each is reasonably priced for gift-giving at $24.95.

And of course, if you're buying for a games fan, there are dozens of stocking stuffers waiting for you at your local comic shop. Miniatures, paints, brushes, dice--perfect gifts for very little cash!

This brief listing only scratches the surface of the remarkable world of fantasy and sf gaming. All of these games are great gift items to introduce a comics fan to an all-new world of entertainment; ask the gaming experts at your local comic shop for other ideas or for information on new modules and sourcebooks for gift-giving.


ROLE AIDS
MONSTERS
OF MYTH AND LEGEND II
Presented by the editors of Role Aids for use with
ADVANCED DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
role-playing game.

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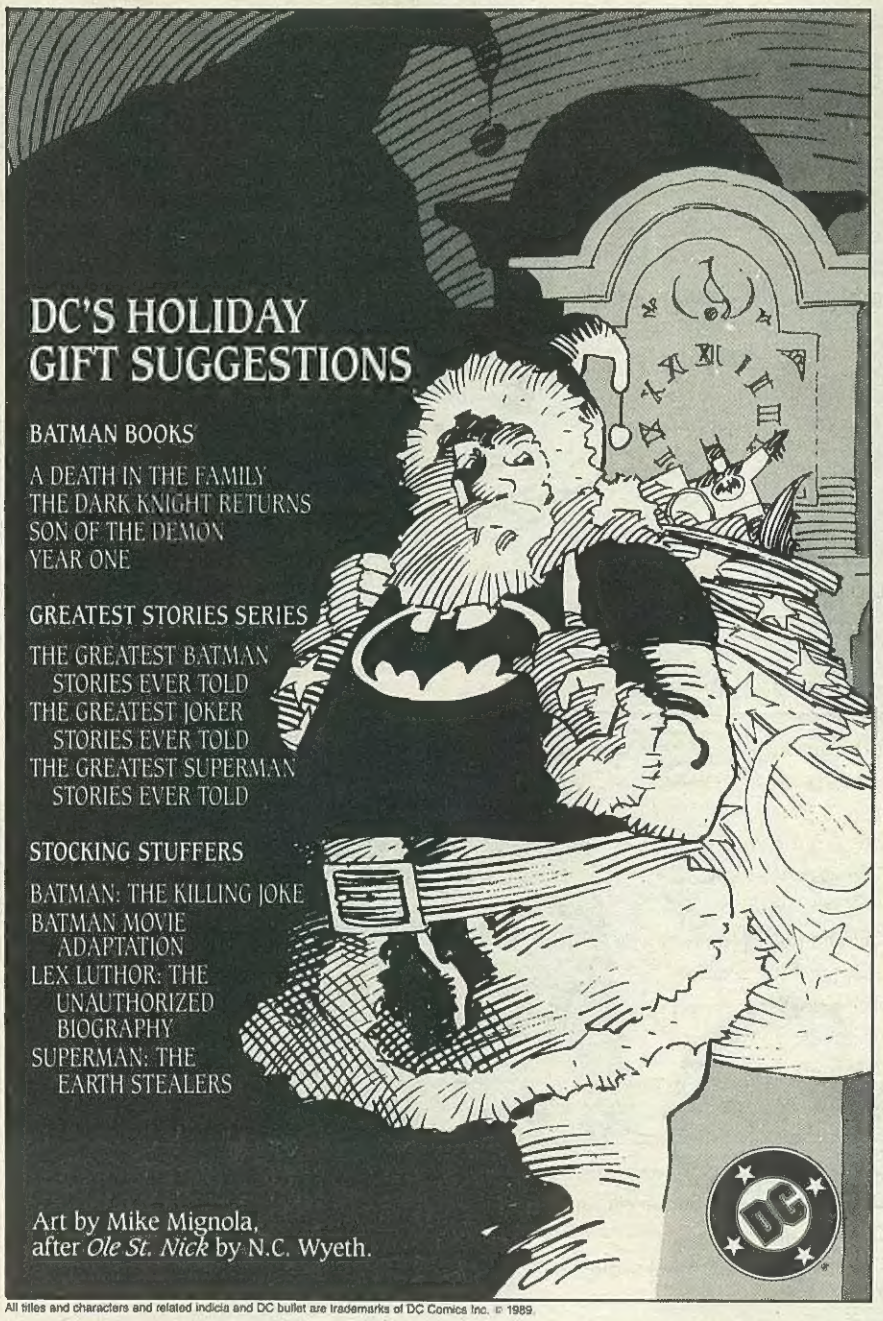
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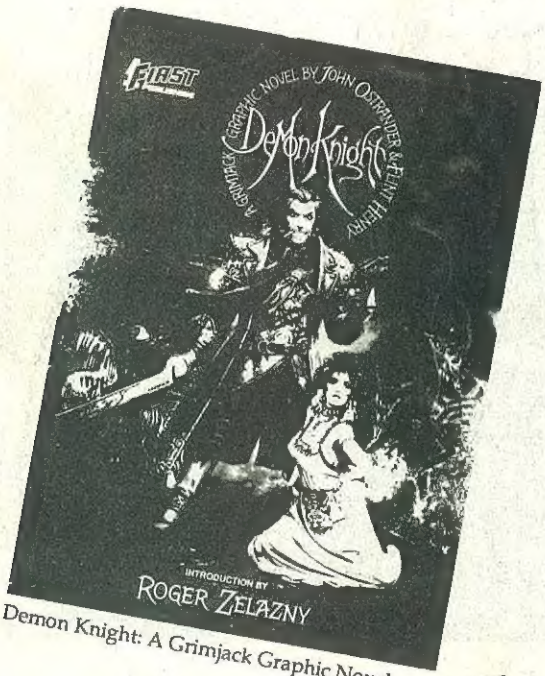

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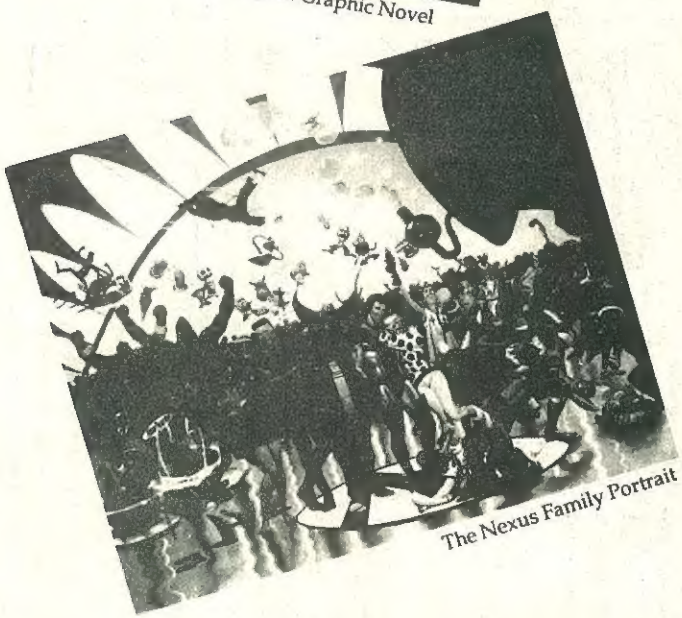

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